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13 Countries Plan to Fight Drugs

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PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico, Oct. 10 — After three days of meetings to discuss mutual issues involving illegal drugs, a group of 13 nations in the Western Hemisphere agreed today to study the possibility of adopting a regionwide program to fight drug trafficking.

A declaration issued at the close of the meeting, which was organized by Mexico, said that some of the participants in the talks had proposed "the possibility of creating a working group or committee charged with planning methods that would tend to develop a regional collaboration with an eye to effectively reducing production, trafficking and consumption of illegal narcotics and psychotropic drugs."

Meese Attends Sessions

It was not specified how such an effort might be mounted and who would participate.

The declaration did not propose other initiatives or methods to deal with drug-related problems.

Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d and several other American officials involved in anti-drug programs attended. The American delegation was not

involved in the drafting of the declaration, and American officials said the delegation had not seen a draft of the document.

Mr. Meese and the rest of the delegation left about an hour before the conference's final session ended with the reading of the declaration.

The meeting grew out of a suggestion made by Mexican officials in January when President Reagan met with Mexico's President, Miguel de la Madrid.

Mexico has been criticized by both the Reagan Administration and Congress because of the substantial flow of illegal drugs across the border into the United States. Mexico has been accused of not fighting drug trafficking hard enough and permitting the existence of corrupt Mexican police and drug agents who aid the traffickers.

Mexico, which says it has 25,000 soldiers and Government officials working in its anti-drug campaign and is devoting half of its Attorney General's budget to the effort, has argued that the United States must accept part of the blame as the world's largest market for illegal drugs.

The de la Madrid administration also has stressed the international nature of drug trafficking and the need for regional solutions.

"In this area, as in all other areas, Mexico respects the sovereign national solutions that each country adopts," Mr. de la Madrid said Thursday when he visited Puerto Vallarta briefly to open the conference.

Both American and Latin American diplomats here saw the conference as a diplomatic success for Mexico. It has served to focus attention on other countries in which drugs are produced and shipped through Mexico to the United States and has cast the drug trafficking problem as a regional one rather than merely a Mexican problem.

Mr. Meese, in his presentation, appealed to the other countries to consider negotiating mutual legal assistance treaties with the United States. Such treaties permit two countries to work together to gather evidence against international drug traffickers, share information, seize assets and prosecute offenders.